

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A seat assembly for a motor vehicle seat, ~~having~~ comprising
 - a seat frame which defines a seat surface for a motor vehicle occupant, and
 - a pivotably mounted backrest which ~~can be folded~~ is foldable about a pivot axis onto the seat surface, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pivot axis $[(S)]$ is ~~moved~~ movable along a predetermined path when the backrest $[(R)]$ is folded forward onto the seat surface $[(F)]$.
2. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pivot axis $[(S)]$ is formed by a physical subassembly ~~(10, 20)~~ of the seat assembly.
3. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pivot axis $[(S)]$ is formed by a bearing spindle $[(10)]$ via which the backrest $[(R)]$ is mounted on a frame subassembly $[(2)]$.
4. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pivot axis $[(S)]$ is positively guided along the predetermined path when the backrest $[(R)]$ is folded forward.

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5. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pivot axis $[(S)]$ is positively guided by ~~means of~~ a guide device $[(20)]$ which extends along the predetermined path.

6. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guide device $[(20)]$ is formed by a guide slot.

7. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1 $[(4)]$, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pivot axis $[(S)]$ is positively guided by ~~means of~~ a guide element $[(27)]$ via which the pivot axis $[(S)]$ is connected to a frame subassembly $[(2)]$ and which is moved when the backrest $[(R)]$ is folded forward.

8. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guide element $[(27)]$ is an elongated body of longitudinally stretched out design.

9. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guide element $[(27)]$ is formed by a guide lever.

10. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the backrest $[(R)]$ is additionally connected outside the pivot axis $[(S)]$ to a frame subassembly $[(2)]$ in an articulated manner.

11. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the backrest $[(R)]$ is

connected outside the pivot axis $[(S)]$ to the frame subassembly $[(2)]$ via a coupling element $[(23)]$ which extends from the backrest $[(R)]$ to the frame subassembly $[(2)]$ and is moved when the backrest $[(R)]$ is folded forward.

12. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the coupling element $[(23)]$ is formed by a coupling lever.

13. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the backrest $[(R)]$ is connected outside the pivot axis $[(S)]$ to the frame subassembly $[(2)]$ via a guide device $[(25)]$ which guides a section $[(16)]$ of the backrest $[(R)]$ when it is folded forward.

14. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guide device $[(25)]$ is formed by a guide slot.

15. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the movement of the pivot axis $[(S)]$ along the predetermined path when the backrest $[(R)]$ is folded forward is controlled by the interaction of the backrest $[(R)]$ with the frame subassembly $[(2)]$ outside the pivot axis $[(S)]$.

16. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pivot axis $[(S)]$ is

positively guided along the predetermined path by ~~means of~~ a guide device ~~[[20]]~~ stretched out along this path or by ~~means of~~ a guide element ~~[[27]]~~ via which the pivot axis ~~[[S]]~~ is connected to the frame subassembly ~~[[2]]~~, and ~~in that~~ wherein the movement of the pivot axis ~~[[S]]~~ along the predetermined path is controlled by ~~means of~~ a coupling element ~~[[23]]~~ or by ~~means of~~ a guide device ~~[[25]]~~, by ~~means of~~ which element or by ~~means of~~ which device the backrest ~~[[R]]~~ is connected outside the pivot axis ~~[[S]]~~ to the frame subassembly ~~[[2]]~~.

17. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pivot axis ~~[[S]]~~ is moved on a closed path when the backrest ~~[[R]]~~ is folded forward.

18. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pivot axis ~~[[S]]~~ is moved from one end ~~[[20a]]~~ to another end ~~[[20b]]~~ of an open curved path and back to the first end ~~[[20a]]~~ of the curved path when the backrest ~~[[R]]~~ is folded forward.

19. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, when the backrest ~~[[R]]~~ is folded forward, the pivot axis ~~[[S]]~~ is moved, at least during part of the folding movement, along a direction which is essentially opposed to the direction of the folding movement.

20. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising means ~~(21, 21a)~~ for locking the pivot axis ~~[[S]]~~ in a position which corresponds to a backrest ~~[[R]]~~ swung up into a use position, and/or in a

position which corresponds to a backrest $[(R)]$ folded forward onto the seat surface $[(F)]$.

21. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means ~~(21, 21a)~~ for locking the pivot axis $[(S)]$ comprise a locking lever $[(21)]$.

22. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising an adjusting device ~~(4), by means of which the~~ to adjust an inclination of the swung-up backrest ~~(R) can be adjusted~~ between various use positions, ~~is provided.~~

23. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 22, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a locking device $[(5)]$ for locking a previously set inclination of the backrest $[(R)]$.

24. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the locking device is formed by $[[the]]$ a self-locking configuration of the adjusting device $[(4)]$ or by a brake assigned to the adjusting device $[(4)]$.

25. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a separate locking device $[(5)]$, which interacts with the adjusting device ~~(4), is provided.~~

26. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 25, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the locking device $[(5)]$ comprises a primary locking element $[(51)]$ which acts on the

adjusting device [(4)] to lock the latter, and a secondary locking element [(52)] with which the primary locking element [(51)] can be locked in a position in which it acts on the adjusting device [(4)].

27. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 26, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the secondary locking element [(52)] disengages the primary locking element [(51)] from the adjusting device [(4)] in order to be able to change the inclination of the backrest.

28. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ wherein

- [(a)] the pivotably mounted backrest ~~(R) which can be adjusted~~ is adjustable in its inclination and has a front side [(V0)] serving to support a seat user's back, and the seat assembly further comprising

- a spring arrangement ~~(D, DF)~~ having at least one elastic element with which the backrest [(R)] is prestressed elastically [(in)] ~~such a manner~~ that it ~~has the tendency~~ is biased to pivot forward and lean with its front side [(V0)] against the seat user's back, ~~it being possible for~~ the inclination of the backrest ~~(R) to be adjusted~~ being adjustable counter to the action of the spring arrangement ~~(D, DF)~~ by [(the)] application of force to its front side [(V0)], and the spring arrangement ~~(D, DF)~~ acting on a gear element [(104)] which is coupled to the backrest [(R)] and which is assigned a locking device [(105)] with which the gear element ~~(104) can be locked~~ is lockable in different positions.

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29. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, in the locked state of the locking device ~~[[105]]~~, the backrest is locked in its particular position of inclination.

30. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, in the unlocked state of the locking device ~~[[105]]~~, the inclination of the backrest is adjustable ~~(R) can be adjusted~~.

31. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 30, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the backrest is pivotable ~~(R) can be pivoted~~ forward onto the gear element ~~[[104]]~~ under the action of the spring arrangement ~~(D, DF)~~.

32. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 30, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the backrest is pivotable ~~(R) can be pivoted~~ rearward counter to the action of the spring arrangement ~~(D, DF)~~ under the action of a compressive force on its front side ~~[[V0]]~~.

33. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gear element ~~[[104]]~~ is part of a gear arrangement ~~(102, 104)~~, ~~in particular a lever arrangement, via which the spring arrangement (D, DF) is coupled to the backrest (R)~~.

34. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 33, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gear arrangement ~~(102,~~

~~104)~~ serves for transmitting a torque exerted on the gear element ~~[[104)]]~~ by the spring arrangement ~~(D, DF)~~.

35. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gear element ~~[[104)]]~~ is assigned a coupling ~~(120, 121)~~ by ~~means of~~ which the backrest ~~(R) can be~~ is decoupled from the gear element ~~(104)~~ ~~in~~ such a ~~manner that~~ the backrest is foldable ~~(R) can be folded~~ forward in the direction of the seat surface ~~[(FL)]~~ of the motor vehicle seat without the gear element ~~[[104)]]~~ being moved.

36. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 35, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the backrest ~~[(R)]~~, when it is decoupled from the gear element ~~[[104)]]~~, is decoupled from the spring arrangement ~~(D, DF)~~, so that the ~~latter~~ spring arrangement does not act on the backrest ~~[(R)]~~.

37. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gear element ~~[[104)]]~~ is assigned a coupling ~~(120, 121)~~ by ~~means of~~ which the backrest ~~(R) can be~~ is decoupled from the gear element ~~(104)~~ ~~in~~ such a ~~manner that~~ the backrest is foldable ~~(R) can be folded~~ forward in the direction of the seat surface when the gear element ~~[[104)]]~~ is locked by ~~means of~~ a locking device ~~[(105)]]~~.

38. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, in order to decouple the backrest ~~[(R)]~~ from the gear element ~~[[104)]]~~, the pivot axis of the backrest ~~[(R)]~~, when the backrest ~~[(R)]~~ is folded forward, is moved along a predetermined path ~~[(120)]]~~ which is

~~preferably~~ designed ~~[[in]]~~ such a ~~manner~~ that the movement of the pivot axis along the path ~~[[120]]~~ prevents a reaction of the pivoting movement of the backrest ~~[[R]]~~ on the gear element ~~[[104]]~~.

39. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 38, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the path ~~[[120]]~~ is formed by a guide device in which the pivot axis is guided ~~in a manner~~ ~~moveable to the left~~.

40. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 35, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gear element is disengageable ~~(104) can be disengaged~~ from the backrest ~~[[R]]~~, so that the gear element ~~[[104]]~~ is not connected to the backrest ~~[[R]]~~.

41. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 39, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein locking means ~~[[103]]~~ are provided by ~~means of~~ which the coupling ~~(120, 121) can be locked~~ is lockable in a state in which the gear element ~~[[104]]~~ is coupled to the backrest ~~[[R]]~~.

42. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 39, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising locking means ~~(103)~~ ~~are provided by means of~~ which the coupling ~~(120, 121) can be locked~~ is lockable in a state in which the gear element ~~[[104]]~~ is decoupled from the backrest ~~[[R]]~~.

43. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 38, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~blocking~~ locking means

[[103]] act on the pivot axis of the backrest [[R]] and prevent the movement thereof along the path [[120]].

44. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 43, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~blocking~~ locking means [[103]] are formed by a lever.

45. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the locking device [[105]] of the gear element [[104]] has a primary locking element [[151]] and a secondary locking element [[152]], the primary locking element [[151]], in the locked state, acting on the gear element [[104]] and the secondary locking element [[152]] blocking the primary locking element [[151]] in the locked state.

46. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gear element [[104]] is formed by a toothed segment lever [[141]].

47. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the spring arrangement ~~(D, DF)~~ has a spring element which acts on the gear element [[104]].

48. (Currently amended) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gear element is engagable ~~(104) can be brought into engagement~~ with the locking device [[105]] via a toothing [[142]].

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49. (New) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 33 wherein the gear arrangement comprises a lever arrangement, via which the spring engagement is coupled to the backrest.